

Energy Update

Monthly Newsletter from the SDSU Energy Analysis Lab

- Any questions and/or comments can be directed to: sdsu.energy.analysis@gmail.com
- If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, please contact the email above.

Current News

First Net-Zero Neighborhood in US Underway

A new development north of Boulder, CO stands to be the first completely net-zero neighborhood in the US. Dubbed [SpringLeaf Boulder](#), the project aims to bring net-zero homes "to the masses" by streamlining green technologies and driving down costs. The twelve homes are designed for LEED Platinum certification, will be fully powered by photovoltaic systems, and are very close to shops and restaurants, creating a little eco-community within Boulder.



Built according to LEED standards in hopes of achieving Platinum certification, the interior is outfitted with non-toxic paints and furnishings, like recycled countertops and bamboo cabinets. A strong focus was placed on insulation to make the home more efficient, and smart design allowed builders to conserve resources by using less lumber. A geothermal heat pump system works to provide efficient heating and cooling, while the entire home is electric, so there is no natural gas used whatsoever.

Located on Broadway and Poplar Ave in Northern Boulder, the 1.5 acre neighborhood is conveniently located across from a market, shops and restaurants and with easy access via bus to the rest of the city. Six townhomes border Broadway, while six single-family homes sit back behind around a communal park. All the homes will be orientated to the south and photovoltaic systems will be installed on the roof, which will completely provide the homes with all the energy they need. The townhomes will be about 2,800 sq. ft., while the largest single family home will be about 4,000 sq. ft. The model home was built at a cost of about \$300 per square foot, but the developers estimate the rest of the homes will cost \$200 per square foot. SpringLeaf Homes was designed by architect, George Watt and is being built by [Silver Lining Builders](#).

Via [Boulder Daily Camera](#)

Steel Recycling Tips

Recycling one ton of steel saves 642 kWh of energy, 76 gallons of oil, 10.9 million BTU's or 4 cubic yards of landfill space.

Prepare steel cans for recycling by rinsing them with water to remove any food residue.

To save space, remove both ends of a steel can and crush flat.

Labels on the steel cans do not have to be removed since they are burned off during the melting process.

The United States throws away enough iron and steel to continuously supply all the nation's automakers.

South Dakota Quick Facts



South Dakota is among the Nation's leading producers of ethanol.

South Dakota consumes more electricity generated from hydroelectric power than from any other source.

South Dakota is one of the few States that allow the statewide use of conventional motor gasoline.